

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip
April 30, 2002

Attendees:

Greg Gnesios	Steve Cohn	Tom Nix
Dan Rosenthal	Kevin Foote	Chris Pipkin
Bob Anthony	Pat Kennedy	Connie Rosenthal
Gene Arnesen	Tom Lucks	Julie Stotler
Nadja Brozina	Neal McKinstry	

Greetings and Introductions

The Mack Ridge Working Group began its field trip in the Rustlers Loop area.

Working Group Discussions

Rustlers Loop:

Kevin Foote explained to the group his concerns with the cattle separation fence running through the trail system, and the damage done to the land by grazing. Lynae Rogers, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist, is planning to rehabilitate the area by drilling seed. Kevin also stated that he does not want to connect Horsethief Bench to Rustlers, because of the land's fragility. Kevin would like to see the road through this area be designated for administrative use only.

Horsethief Bench:

Kevin described how the mountain biking community actually laid out the trails on the Horsethief Bench, avoiding using cattle trails to discourage the cattle from following the new trails. Kevin wants to consider suggesting specific directions for the various user groups to take, i.e., clockwise or counterclockwise. This is an extremely popular trail, receiving a lot of use.

Pat Kennedy addressed the issue of needing more trails because of that heavy use. The group discussed maintaining flexibility in the plan to allow for more construction of trails.

Areas in General:

The issue was also discussed that restroom facilities will be needed at the Rustlers, Lion's, and Mack Ridge Trailheads.

For the parking lot near Rustlers Loop Trailhead, Kevin would like to see traffic control

(chained off) so the parking lot does not keep growing. This site is also being considered as the site for potentially linking Mary's Loop for the equestrians and beginner riders to use, rather than the single-track trail system.

The group also talked about a possible trail paralleling the I-70 Frontage Road, as well as the potential acquisition of the tract of state land near the Mack Ridge Trailhead. This land would be ideal for a staging area with a vault toilet.

The group dismissed after agreeing to schedule the next meeting for May 16, as well as to conduct another field trip.